IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as noted in the claim listing below:

1-56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) A video program production system for use in producing a video program, comprising a composition table providing apparatus, and a plurality of terminals including program content gathering and program production terminals communicable with the composition table providing apparatus, respective terminals being operated by respective operating groups,

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

a video program database for storing video program content data inputted from said program content gathering and program production terminals,

storage means for storing composition table data containing updatable information describing successive tasks to be performed and completed by different ones of said operating groups required for the production of said video program, said composition table data storing links to the video program content data stored in said video program database, and

control means for providing the composition table data to each of the terminals, including the information describing tasks to be performed and tasks completed by said different operating groups for viewing at each terminal, and for processing information input from the terminals to be added to the composition table data; and

wherein each terminal comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the

acquisition means, including the tasks to be performed and the tasks completed by respective

groups,

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said

composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the completion

of the task performed by a respective group, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the

composition table providing apparatus to update the composition table that is stored and

displayed at the terminals,

whereby the terminals operated by all of said operating groups display the

composition table updated by different ones of said operating groups and thereby the status of all

of said operating groups; and

whereby the display at a terminal of said end of task data input in said

composition table data from a different operating group instructs a group to perform the next

successive task following the task that has been completed by said different operating group.

58. (Currently Amended) A video program production system for use in producing a

video program, comprising a composition table providing apparatus, and a plurality of terminals

including A/V content gathering and A/V editing terminals communicable with the composition

table providing apparatus, respective terminals being operated by respective operating groups,

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing composition table data containing updatable

information describing audio and video (A/V) gathering and editing tasks to be performed and

completed by A/V content gathering and A/V editing operating groups required for the

production of said video program,

an A/V database for storing audio and video content for said video program,

said composition table data including links to said audio and video content in said

A/V database, and

control means for providing the composition table data to the terminals, including

the information describing tasks to be performed and tasks completed by said A/V content

gathering and A/V editing operating groups for viewing at each terminal, and for processing

information input from the terminals to be added to and update the composition table data; and

wherein each terminal comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating

with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the

acquisition means, including the A/V content gathering and editing tasks performed and

completed by said operating groups, and for displaying said audio and video information when a

link thereto in said composition table data is selected,

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said

composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the completion

of the task performed by a respective group, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the

composition table providing apparatus to update the composition table that is stored and

displayed at the terminals,

<u>whereby the terminals operated by all of said operating groups display the</u>

<u>composition table updated by said operating groups and thereby the status of all of said operating</u>

<u>groups; and</u>

whereby the display at a terminal of information <u>input</u> in said composition table

data <u>from a respective group</u> representing the completion of a task by ~~one~~ <u>said respective</u> group

instructs another group to perform the next successive task following the task that has been

completed.

59. (Currently Amended) A video program production system for use in producing a

video program, comprising a composition table providing apparatus, and a plurality of terminals

including program content gathering and program production terminals communicable with the

composition table providing apparatus, respective terminals being operated by respective

operating groups,

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

a video program database for storing video program content data inputted from

said program content gathering and program production terminals,

storage means for storing composition table data containing information

describing successive tasks to be performed and completed by different ones of said operating

groups required for the production of said video program, said composition table data storing

links to the video program content data stored in said video program database, and said

composition table data further containing updateable items, with each operating group having

authorization to access and update only certain predetermined ones of said updatable items, and

control means for providing the composition table data to each of the terminals, including the information describing tasks to be performed and tasks completed by said different operating groups for viewing at each terminal, and for processing said certain predetermined updatable items, input from the terminals of those authorized operating groups, to be added to the composition table data; and

wherein each terminal comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means, including the tasks to be performed and the tasks completed by respective authorized operating groups,

access means for enabling said terminal to access and add to said composition table data only certain predetermined updatable items from the authorized operating group,

input information generating means for generating updatable items to be input to said composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by a respective group, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the updatable items to the composition table providing apparatus so as to update the composition table that is displayed at the terminals,

whereby the terminals operated by all of said operating groups display the composition table updated by different ones of said operating groups and thereby the status of all of said operating groups; and

whereby the display at a terminal of said end of task data input in said

composition table data from a different operating group instructs a group to perform the next

successive task following the task that has been completed.

60. (Currently Amended) A video program production system for use in producing a

video program, comprising a composition table providing apparatus, and a plurality of terminals

including A/V content gathering and A/V editing terminals communicable with the composition

table providing apparatus, respective terminals being operated by respective operating groups,

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing updatable composition table data containing updatable

information describing audio and video (A/V) gathering and editing tasks to be performed and

completed by A/V content gathering and A/V editing operating groups required for the

production of said video program,

an A/V database for storing audio and video content for said video program,

said composition table data including links to said audio and video content in said

A/V database, and

control means for providing the composition table data to each of the terminals,

including the information describing tasks to be performed and tasks completed by said A/V

content gathering and A/V editing operating groups for viewing at each terminal, and for

updating said composition table data with information input from at least some of the terminals;

and

wherein each terminal comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating

with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the

acquisition means, including the A/V content gathering and editing tasks performed and

completed by said operating groups, and

retrieving means for retrieving from said A/V database said audio and video

information when a displayed link thereto in said composition table data is selected,

and wherein the terminal used by an edit operating group includes means

for performing an edit operation on at least said retrieved video information in accordance with

said information in said displayed composition table data describing said editing tasks, thereby

producing edited video information,

input information generating means for generating edit information

describing said edit operation to be input to said composition table, said input information

including end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by the edit

operating group, and

transmitting means for transmitting the edit information and end of task

data to the composition table providing apparatus for updating said composition table data that is

stored and displayed at the terminals,

whereby the terminals operated by all of said operating groups display the

composition table updated by said edit operating group; and

whereby the display at a terminal of information input in said composition

table data from said edit operating group representing the completion of a task by said edit

operating group instructs another group to perform the next successive task following the task

that has been completed by said edit operating group.

61. (Currently Amended) A terminal for use by a respective operating group in a video

program production system to communicate with a composition table providing apparatus via a

network, wherein at least program content gathering and program production groups

communicate with said composition table providing apparatus and perform successive operations

to produce said video program, said terminal comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring a composition table containing information

describing successive tasks to be performed and completed by said program content gathering

and program production groups required for the production of said video program, said

composition table storing links to video program content data stored in a video program database

and inputted from said program content gathering and program production groups,

display means for displaying the acquired composition table, including the tasks

to be performed and the tasks completed by both said respective group and by other groups,

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said

composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the completion

of the task performed by said respective group, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the

composition table providing apparatus to update the composition table at the composition table

providing apparatus and displayed on the terminals used by the groups,

whereby the terminals used by all of said operating groups display the

composition table updated by different ones of said operating groups and thereby the status of all

of said operating groups; and

whereby the display at a terminal of said end of task data input in said

composition table from a different operating group instructs a group to perform the next

successive task following the task that has been completed by said different operating group.

62. (Currently Amended) A terminal for use by a respective one of several operating

groups in a video program production system to communicate with a composition table

providing apparatus via a network, wherein at least program content gathering and program

production groups communicate with said composition table providing apparatus and perform

successive operations to produce said video program, said terminal comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring a composition table containing information

describing successive tasks to be performed and completed by at least said program content

gathering and program production groups required for the production of said video program, said

composition table storing links to video program content data stored in a video program database

and inputted from said program content gathering and program production groups, said

composition table further containing updatable items, with each operating group having

authorization to access and update only certain predetermined ones of said updatable items,

display means for displaying the acquired composition table, including the tasks

to be performed and the tasks completed by respective all of the authorized operating groups,

access means for enabling said terminal to access and add to said composition

table only certain predetermined updatable items from the authorized operating group,

input information generating means for generating updatable items to be input to

said composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the

completion of the task performed by a respective group, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the updatable items to the

composition table providing apparatus for updating the composition table that is displayed on the

terminals used by the groups,

whereby the terminals operated by all of said operating groups display the

composition table updated by different ones of said authorized operating groups and thereby the

status of all of said operating groups; and

whereby the display means at said terminal displays the completion of a task

performed by one operating group to instruct another operating group to perform the next

successive task following the task that has been completed.

63. (Currently Amended) A terminal for use by an edit operating group in a video

program production system to communicate with a composition table providing apparatus and

with an audio/video (A/V) database, said terminal comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring a composition table containing updatable

information describing (A/V) gathering and editing tasks to be performed and completed by at

least A/V content gathering and A/V editing operating groups required for the production of a

video program, said composition table further containing links to audio and video information in

said A/V database,

display means for displaying the acquired composition table, including the A/V content gathering and editing tasks performed and completed by said A/V content gathering and A/V editing operating groups,

retrieving means for retrieving from said A/V database said audio and video information when a displayed link thereto in said composition table is selected,

means for performing an edit operation on at least said retrieved video information in accordance with said information in said displayed composition table describing said editing tasks, thereby producing edited video information,

edit information generating means for generating edit information describing said edit operation to be input to said composition table and end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by the edit operating group, and

transmitting means for transmitting the edit information and end of task data to the composition table providing apparatus for updating said composition table,

whereby the terminals operated by all of said operating groups display the composition table updated by said edit operating; and

whereby the display means at said terminal displays the completion of a task performed by the edit operating group to instruct another operating group to perform the next successive task following the task that has been completed.